

# **THE MESSENGER** December 2014

*The Newsletter of*

## **MEYERSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*223 Hickory Tavern Road at the Circle in Meyersville*

*Gillette, NJ 07933-1038*

**The Rev. Barbara F. Aspinall, Pastor**

### **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS** **at** **MEYERSVILLE CHURCH**



Sunday, December 7, *Second Sunday in Advent*  
10 am Family Worship and Communion  
5 pm Meyersville Tree Lighting  
Participate in the activities  
on the Circle and then sing carols in  
our sanctuary with special guests,  
the WHRHS Chorus



Sunday, December 14 *Third Sunday in Advent*  
10 am Worship and Church School



Sunday, December 21, *Fourth Sunday in Advent*  
10 am Worship and Church School  
11 am Cookie Exchange, Christmas Craft  
Carol Singing and Bell Ringing



Wednesday, December 24, *Christmas Eve*  
7 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship



email: [baspinall223@aol.com](mailto:baspinall223@aol.com)  
December, 2014

Dear Church Family,

*Evangelism is not about what other people can do for our church. Yes, our sanctuary looks a bit sparse on Sunday mornings and it would feel better to us to have more people there. And yes, our budget is tight and it would be nice if those same more people would help us out financially. But neither of those things – filling the pews and filling the coffers of the church – have anything to do with sharing the good news of the gospel. The good news is not about what other people might/can/should do for us. It is about letting others in on the great thing we have found – the love of God. We have found out and firmly believe that God loves us, intends goodness and joy for us. These lives we have been given are meant to be meaningful, happy, worthy and connected to the source of that joy – God in Christ. This love is such good news that we should be bubbling over with the joy of it, sharing this marvelous love that has discovered us.*

*There are however, many reasons we choose not to talk about our faith. We don't want to be associated with high pressure tactics; we don't want our friends to think we are foolish or uncool; we don't want to seem nosy about or disrespectful of other peoples' choices. Pride, embarrassment, fear, sin, get in the way of the conversations that share our faith. And despite the many hours and great devotion to our church, we say nothing to our family and friends about what we believe and why the church is important in our lives.*

*The love of God is not something that should, or even can, be contained in our small church building. I encourage you in the coming season of Advent and Christmas, to tell somebody you care about, or even somebody you just met, about your faith. Say something about the love of God given us in the birth of Jesus into the world. Tell about the joy of being so very well loved by God.*

*Yours in Christ,*

*Barbara*

**Advent Activity Day**  
**Sunday, December 21st**  
**Come Exchange Cookies,**  
**Make a Table Decoration,**  
**Play Handbells, Sing Carols!**



After worship on Sunday, December 21st, the fourth Sunday of Advent, we will be getting together in Fellowship Hall after worship to sing Christmas carols, make decorations with greens for our homes and beautiful Christmas cards. We will also have a special opportunity to make music with our handbells-even if you have never rung bells before! We will be exchanging cookies and delivering some of those cookies to church members and friends. Bring some cookies to trade and welcome the season!

**“God loves a cheerful giver.”** (II Corinthians 9:7)

Sunday, November 23rd was our Stewardship Sunday. Those who were present in worship filled out their Estimate of Giving Cards reflecting their commitment to not only share what they have with the church, but to choose to make their own lives a reflection of their own faith and their understanding of themselves as in the care of a God of love and grace. All should have received a letter and card in the mail which can be returned in the envelope provided. It is the Session’s hope that those who have not done so will fill out and return this card so that all may participate in the joys and responsibilities of being part of the body of Christ in the world.

*Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.*



## **Annual Reports**

**It’s that time of year again!** We are hereby reminding all committee heads to get your reports ready. Please get all your information into the office as soon as you can. We thank you in advance for being prompt.

You can send your report to [secretaryMPC@aol.com](mailto:secretaryMPC@aol.com).



## **Advent Devotionals Available**

Bring out the boxes! Unpack the ornaments, lights, wrapping paper, candles, and wreaths! It soon will be time for the pre-Christmas clutter! The excitement and anticipation of Christmas will fill our Advent thoughts to overflowing. We will fill our schedules and homes to overflowing as well, making Advent full of stress and exhausting.

This year, let's take a different approach. In the spirit of spring cleaning, let's do an Advent cleaning and use the four weeks leading up to Christmas as a time of uncluttering—of emptying our schedules, homes, and hearts.

This popular devotional calendar, produced by *Presbyterians Today*, provides a Scripture reading, meditation, and prayer for each day of Advent. The calendar is designed to go with you throughout your day, making it easy to grab a moment for prayerful reflection.

Copies will be available at the church.

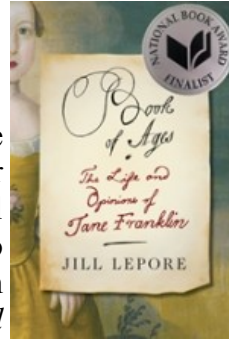
## **Nominating Committee Will Begin Work**

Our Congregational Nominating Committee will soon begin working on the slate of new church officers to be presented for approval at our Annual Congregational Meeting on February 1. The committee members will be Barbara Grillo from the Session, a representative from the Board of Deacons with Lisa Kielblock, Gayle Skrobacz, Laura Mertz and Peggy Arnold as Members at Large elected last February at the Congregational Meeting. This Committee will be considering candidates to serve on Session, the Board of Deacons, for Financial Secretary, Audit Committee. If you would like to suggest yourself or another person as a candidate for these offices in our church, please speak with a committee member.

## **Carillon Repaired**

After several years of silence, our carillon is now once again ringing the hours of noon, 3 pm and 6 pm into our community. Two hymn tunes are then played each time. The speakers, the CD player and the timing system all needed some repair and replacement parts to the tune of \$1500 which came from our Memorial Fund. Many thanks to all those who have contributed to that fund over the years to make the repairs possible.

**Meyersville Church Book Club**  
**Friday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.**



The Meyersville Church Book Club will be meeting at 7:30 pm on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. For our discussion, to which all are welcome, we will be branching out into the world of non-fiction to read Jill Lepore's biography of Benjamin Franklin's sister, *Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin*. From the *Booklist* review:

*Award-winning historian, Harvard professor, and New Yorker staff writer Lepore, was intrigued to learn that Benjamin Franklin and his youngest sister, Jane, were so close they were called Benny and Jenny. Renowned, world-traveling brother and obscure, homebound sister exchanged loving, newsy, bantering letters for more than 60 years. Most of his were preserved, while three decades' worth of hers disappeared. This near-erasure, along with the gender bias that determined the vast differences in the siblings' education, opportunities, and experiences, become as much a focus in this zestfully rigorous portrait as Jane herself. The most poignant artifact Lepore unearthed was Jane's handmade "Book of Ages," recording the birth of her 12 children and, excruciatingly, the eventual deaths of all but one of them. In spite of the tragedies she endured, Jane's surviving letters are "gabby, frank, and vexed," the correspondence of a smart, witty, hardworking woman who "loved best books about ideas," reveled in gossip, expressed "impolite" opinions on religion and politics, and shared piquant observations of the struggle for American independence.*

**Joint Session Meeting with First, Stirling**

The Sessions of our church and First Presbyterian, Stirling met together on Tuesday, November 11th to talk about what ministries and missions we might share. The group decided:

- \* To continue to find opportunities to worship together on special occasions
- \* To join in fellowship activities like bowling and a game night
- \* To share in local mission projects
- \* To communicate more between the two churches by providing better access to one another's newsletters

## **December Special Mission**

The Session has decided to change our special mission for the month of December to focus on water supply mechanisms of various sorts in order to help families in different parts of the world to have the clean water essential to life and health. Depending on the funds we raise, we will choose as many of the systems below as we can.



### **\$75 RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEM**

For many, water is hard to find. Access to water in homes is even rarer. Our donation means that a family in Central America gets a connection to a potable water system in their own home. Rainwater can be a precious resource when collected, stored, and filtered properly.

### **\$65 TREADLE PUMP**

Crop irrigation is a primary concern for farmers around the world. Without water, crops will wither and die, leaving behind starving communities. One treadle pump can help ensure that these precious crops will come to harvest.



### **\$500 SAND DAM**

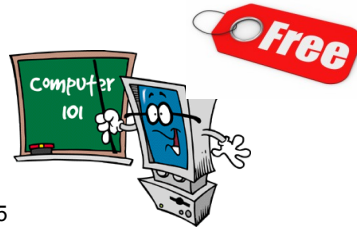
Sand dams are a simple yet effective way to provide clean water for an entire community. A concrete wall is built across a seasonal riverbed, and sand fills in behind it - trapping rainwater. An average sand dam can store millions of gallons of water for years, and provide water for drinking and/or irrigation even when droughts occur.



## Schedule Change for December

The computer class will have a slightly different schedule through the month of December. There will be no class on December 6 and December 27.

## Hands On Training



Color Guide Book \$15

## Computer Basics In easy steps

**Topics include**  
Windows basics  
Word Processing  
Communication/email  
Internet/create web page  
Spreadsheet  
Music and Speech  
Photography  
Gadgets and Gizmos  
Manage your computer

Saturday from 10am-noon

15 week course

Meyersville Presbyterian Church  
223 Hickory Tavern Road  
Gillette, NJ, 07933

Course starts Nov 1  
Info: ruudz@aol.com

## Bazaar Receipts

Please let Rosanne McGraw know of any Bazaar related expenses for which you would like to be reimbursed.

## Community Christmas Carol Sing and Ring

Sunday, December 14th, 6-7 pm  
First Presbyterian Church, Stirling



Sing carols by candlelight on the front lawn of the church. Handbell ringers will also perform.  
Wassail afterwards!

## *We Keep in Our Prayers*

**Mike Ambrosio**, friend of Doug Smith  
**Jessica Arico and daughter**, friends of Carol Boyle  
**Sal Badalamenti**, friend of Barbara Aspinall  
**George Barker**, Marion Barker's brother  
**Marilyn Barker**, Marion Barker's sister-in-law  
**Margaret Bauknight**, friend of Lynne Hilf  
**Bird Family**, community friends  
**Clark Carson**, husband of Claudia  
**Claudia Carson**, former member  
**Ellen Dreyer**, sister-in-law of Barbara Grillo  
**Ellen Eastty**, community friend  
**Pat Edmonds and family**, cousin of Gail Duffe  
**Dan Gallagher**, Dan Gallagher's father  
**Betty Garrett**, friend of Lynne Hilf  
**John Goberis**, Carol Skidmore's father  
**Carter Grochala**, friend of Evan Smith  
**Betty Lembrich**, church member  
**Robert Marino**, friend of Ruud Zijdel  
**Eleanor Matthews**, friend of Peg Arnold  
**Stella Mauro**, church member  
**George McDaniel**, relative of the Skidmore family  
**Quaid Mobus**, friend of Roberta Keller  
**Ian Rahimi**, friend of Minaian family  
**Adrienne Schmitt**, Deborah Schmitt's mother  
**Beth Shaw**, Kielblock cousin  
**Chris Sikora**, nephew of Lynne Hilf's niece's husband  
**Garland Smith**, Joanne Smith's brother  
**Theresa Soeth**, Marcie Skrobacz's aunt  
**Mary Stapperfenne**, Jean's daughter-in-law  
**Robert and Elva Wenz**, Jean Stapperfenne's sister & brother-in-law  
**Charlene Wilverding**, friend of Kelly Roshto





## DECEMBER 2014

### Lectionary Readings



#### **December 7 - 2nd Sunday of Advent**

Isa. 40:1-11; Ps. 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

#### **December 14 - 3rd Sunday of Advent**

Isa. 61:1-4, 8-11; Ps. 126 or Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thess. 5:16-24;  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

#### **December 21 - 4th Sunday of Advent**

2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Ps. 89:1-4, 19-26;  
Rom. 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

#### **December 28 - 1st Sunday after Christmas Day**

*Isa. 61:10-62:3, Ps. 148; Gal. 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40*

### COMMUNION

#### **December 1, 2014**

#### **Preparing Elements:**

Lynne Hilf

#### **Elders Serving Communion:**

Class of 2016: Marion Barker  
and Loura Zijdel

### CALL TO WORSHIP

December 7 Art England

December 14 Sandra Seymour

December 21 Marcie Skrobacz

December 28 Doris Mertz

## NEWS FROM OUR CONGREGATION

### Happy Birthday

December 4	Richard Skidmore	December 19	Joyce Merrill
December 9	Ginger Sorger	December 27	Matt Keller
December 10	John Skrobacz	December 29	Scott Kantor
December 13	Billy Beyer	December 30	Evan Smith
December 14	Colette Goodnow		
December 18	Krystyna Leski		

## Poinsettias

If you would like to help decorate our sanctuary for our Christmas celebration by purchasing a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone you love, please fill out this form and, along with your check, direct it to the church office. You may put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church by **December 14th**, or call the church phone (647-0390) and leave a message with the information below. The poinsettias are either small or large and are \$15.00 or \$22.00 each. You may take your poinsettia home after the worship service on Christmas Eve.



Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Poinsettia small \$15.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Poinsettia large \$22.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Given to the glory of God in honor or in memory of :



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